Actively Developing Your Writing Skills

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- Find on the DRWA website or Graduate Writing II page
- Polls, files, and links are interactive.
- **Now:** Use the Q&A box.
  - **Later:** Send to writingsupport@waldenu.edu or visit our Live Chat Hours.
- Ask in the Q&A box.
  - Choose “Help” in the upper right corner of the webinar room.
Agenda

• Where you’ve been

• Where you’re going:
  • What does it mean to “actively develop” your skills?
  • Writing Center and Academic Skills Center services
  • Next stages in academic writing
Where You’ve Been
### Where You’ve Been

#### Writing Assessment

- Wrote clearly in response to a prompt
- Organized ideas clearly
- Used strong grammar and mechanics

#### Graduate Writing I & II Courses

- Practiced academic writing skills
  - Paraphrasing
  - Analysis
  - MEAL Plan paragraphs
- Developed writing process
- Established writing goals
Where You’re Going:
Actively Develop Your Skills
## Actively Develop Your Skills

| Identify or revisit writing goals | Use your coursework to practice | Collaborate with the Writing Center | Register for Graduate Writing III | Begin next stages in academic writing |
Reflection:

What writing skills do you want to develop and improve? What writing skills are you practicing in your coursework now?
Where You’re Going:

Collaborate with the Writing Center
Writing Center Services

✓ Familiarize yourself with the website

✓ Bookmark it for easy access

✓ Refer to it for help and access to services!

Website: https://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/home
Writing Center Services

Scheduled appointments

Feedback on various areas of your writing:
- Idea development
- Paragraphs
- Organization
- APA and grammar patterns

Help you with first, revised, or final drafts

Asynchronous

Paper Review Appointments
(see our suggestions for making appointments!)
Writing Center Services

- **Hour-long presentations** on writing, grammar, and APA topics
- **Help you develop writing skills**
- **Live:** Interact with presenter and classmates; ask questions
- **Recorded:** Watch at your convenience; participate in activities

Try the “Synthesis and Thesis Development” webinar
Writing Center Services

Social Media
- Facebook
- Twitter

Informational
- Podcast
- Blog

Q&A
- writingsupport@waldenu.edu
- Live Chat hours

Try the blog post “On Writing Introductions”
Where You’re Going:

Academic Skills Center Courses and Workshops
Workshops and Courses

Courses

• CAEX 3100/3101: Skills for Academic Integrity
• CAEX 6201/6200: Basic APA Style
• CAEX 6100/6101: Critical Thinking for Social Change
• CAEX 8350/8351: Writing a Literature Review

Workshops

• Preproposal
• Proposal
• Introduction
• Literature Review
• Methods Section
• Postproposal

Questions: caexcourses@mail.waldenu.edu
CAEX 6070/6071 Graduate Writing III: Adv Composition Skills

Tuition-free 8-week course – Launches Nov 26 (qtr) and Jan 7 (sem)

Hone higher-level skills
- Synthesis
- APA nuances
- Scholarly voice

Develop and revise a short literature review

Practice, discuss, and reflect with peers

Questions: caexcourses@mail.waldenu.edu
Where You’re Going:
Next Stage in Academic Writing
Next Stages in Academic Writing

You’ll also need to learn about:

- Synthesis
- Formality and integrity
- Organization
- Writing process
Synthesis

Paraphrase
Rephrasing a source’s ideas or information in your own voice

Analysis
Commenting on the significance of or connection between information

Synthesis
Comparing and contrasting multiple sources to show their significance or connection
**Quote:** According to the Department of Education (2015), “U.S. students are graduating from high school at a higher rate than ever before” (para. 1).

**Paraphrase:** High school graduation is at an all-time high in the United States (Department of Education, 2015).

**Reflection:** What differences do you see between the paraphrase and the quote?
Current efforts to provide students with more support during their last years in high school are working. High school graduation is at an all-time high in the United States (Department of Education, 2015).
Current efforts to provide students with more support during their last years in high school are working. *High school graduation is at an all-time high in the United States (Department of Education, 2015). Additionally, parity in graduation rates across student demographics is improving, with Black student graduation rates coming closer to White student graduation rates (Burkham, 2016). Taken together, these statistics provide educators hope that graduation rates for all students are improving, not just for the most privileged students.*
Reflection:

What 2-3 words would you use to describe scholarly writing?
## Formality and Academic Integrity

### Scholarly Voice
- Avoid contractions
- Use formal phrasing
- Avoid generalizations and metaphorical language
- Use transitions to connect ideas

Doesn’t have to be stuffy, just clear!

### Academic Integrity
- Cite all ideas from sources
- Use quotation marks as needed
- Use APA for citations, reference entries
- Take careful notes

Focus on one rule at a time!
Organization

**Introduction**
- General context and background
- Thesis statement
- Minimal citations

**Headings**
- Map out what you’ve written after you write it
- Help direct your reader
- Can be a part of the revision process

**Conclusion**
- Wrap-up, reminder of main points
- Restatement of thesis statement
- Minimal citations
- Avoid NEW information
Reflection:

Which option best describes your current writing process? (Be honest and choose all that apply—Your response is anonymous!)

- I begin my paper the day it’s due.
- I research and prewrite 1-2 days before my paper is due.
- I reserve at least 1-3 hours to revise/edit my paper.
- I read and start thinking about my assignment 5-7 days before my paper is due.
Writing Process

Necessary as you work on longer and more complex writing assignments.

- Brainstorming → Researching → Outlining → Drafting → Revising → Proofing
- Not necessarily linear; can mean jumping around and returning to previous steps
- **Prewriting:** Outlining, freewriting,
- **Revision:** Read aloud, compare thesis/paragraphs, analyze headings
## Recap

### Actively Develop Your Skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identify or revisit writing goals</th>
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Reflection:

*How will you develop your writing skills?*

*How will you collaborate with the Writing Center?*
Questions

**Now:** Ask!

**Later:**
writesupport@waldenu.edu
Live Chat Hours